

**1. (currently amended)** Method for emptying a Big Bag or similar transport container which is filled with pourable, ~~especially~~ pulverized goods which are not to come into contact with the surroundings, comprising the following steps:

**[[ - ]]** inserting the Big Bag from above into a substantially vertically arranged sluice means (2) which is sealable from the surroundings and communicates with a processing container (3) for receiving the contents of the Big Bag,

**[[ - ]]** cutting open the Big Bag inside the sluice means by a cutting means (6) arranged on the lower side of the sluice means, on which the Big Bag is placed, and

**[[ - ]]** transferring the empty Big Bag to a removal zone (A) in the sluice means, in which the Big Bag is compressed and removed into a plastic sack (8) attached to the sluice means (2),

characterized in that

the Big Bag is inserted in the sluice means by a transporting unit (1) which, by being set down on the sluice means, seals the sluice means off from its surroundings.

**2. (original)** Method according to claim 1, wherein the empty Big Bag is lifted inside the tubular sluice means into a removal zone (A) and pushed laterally by a removing bow (5) over a removal opening (2e), under which the plastic sack (8) is attached.

**3. (original)** Method according to claim 2, wherein after removal of the Big Bag from the sluice means, a part (1a) of the transporting unit (1) transporting the Big Bag inside the sluice means (2) is lifted into a washing zone (W) over a slider (4), by which the sluice means (2) is sealed off, while the part (1a) of the transporting unit is washed by spray jets (12) and then dried.

**4. (currently amended)** Arrangement for emptying a Big Bag or similar transport container, which is filled with pourable, ~~especially~~ pulverized goods which are not to come into contact with the surroundings, comprising

a sluice means (2) which is sealable from its surroundings in a fluid-impermeable way, is arranged substantially vertically, and has at its lower end a cutting means (6), wherein the sluice means is joined to a processing container (3) for the contents of the Big Bag,

a removing means (5, 10) by which, over a removal opening (2e), the empty Big Bag is compressed and expelled

characterized in that

a transporting unit (1) for the Big Bag is provided with a transporting plate (1a) mounted thereon and moveable out relative to the transporting unit (1), wherein the transporting unit (1), by being placed on the sluice means (2), seals this off from the surroundings.

**5. (original)** Arrangement according to claim 4, wherein the removing means has a removing bow (5) which is horizontally moveable inside the tubular sluice means (2) and under whose end position the removal opening (2e) is formed in a lateral projection (2c) of the sluice means.

**6. (original)** Arrangement according to claim 5, wherein over the removal opening (2e), there are provided at least one cylinder (9) for clamping the Big Bag and at least one cylinder (10) for expelling the Big Bag after its release by the clamping cylinder (9).

**7. (currently amended)** Arrangement according ~~one of~~ to claim 4 ~~claims 4 to 6~~, wherein over the removing means (5, 10), in the sluice means (2) a slider (4) is provided, over which a washing zone (W) for the transporting plate (1a) is formed.

**8. (original)** Arrangement according to claim 7, wherein the slider (4) is arranged inclined for directing the washing liquid off.

**9. (original)** Arrangement according to claim 4, wherein the transporting plate (1a) is directly joined to a crane arrangement (K) by means of a cable (1e), and between the transporting plate (1a) and the part (1k) of the transporting unit (1) resting on the sluice means (2), a telescope means (1g) is

provided, which seals off the inside of the sluice means (2) from the outside and prevents twisting of the transporting plate (1a) during the lifting and lowering movement inside the sluice means (2).